



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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*A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana*

## LEEC NEWS

### **Louisiana's 11th Environmental Education Awareness Student Art & Language Arts Contest Honors Winners at Reception**

Louisiana students were recently honored for their winning entries in the Eleventh Environmental Awareness Art and Language Arts Contest at a reception held in Baton Rouge at the Governor's Mansion on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. The students' families, teachers, and principals were invited to attend the reception. Members of the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) and Alcoa Foundation representatives attended the event as well. Secretary Stephen Chustz, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, delivered the congratulatory address and Connie Conner, LEEC past chair, served as mistress of ceremonies.



The winners were selected from 792 entries submitted by kindergarten through twelfth grade students representing ninety-four schools across the state. Students submitted entries in both art and language arts in four separate age categories. Art entries were required to be in color and participants could use a variety of media, including crayons, colored pencils, and watercolors. Language arts entries could be written as a story, reflection, creative narrative, or poetry. Entries were judged on artistic quality, creativity, and how well the piece represented this year's theme, "*Louisiana's Natural Resources: What's Important to You?*"

Cash prizes totaling \$2,825 were awarded to the student winners. Winning art and language art entries will be used to create a 2014 Environmental Awareness calendar, which will be distributed statewide. Winning language arts entries will be published in newspapers and winning art entries will be placed on billboards in the winners' local areas. The annual contest is sponsored by the LEEC through the generous support of the Alcoa Foundation. To view the list of 2013 winners, [click here](#).

## GRANTS

### **Surdna Foundation Grant [Letters of Inquiry Accepted Throughout the Year]**

The Surdna Foundation is accepting applications under its Sustainable Environments Program on a rolling basis. The Foundation's grant is focused on smart growth, climate and energy, and green economies through a lens of next generation infrastructure. Letters of Inquiry are accepted at any time, and successful applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal. For more information, [click here](#).

### **Foundation for the Mid-South Grants [Grant Inquiries Accepted Throughout the Year]**

The mission of the Foundation for the Mid-South is to invest in people and strategies that build philanthropy and promote racial, social, and economic equity in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that work to expand knowledge and improve lives through the following priority areas: Community Enrichment, Education, Health and Wellness, and Wealth Building. Grant Inquiry Forms may be submitted throughout the year. For more information and application process, [click here](#).

## WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

### **Climate Change Education Roundtable**

#### **Workshop on Engaging Individual, Family, and Community Forestland Owners on Issues Related to Climate Change—August 26-27, 2013**

*National Academies, Room 100, Keck Center, 500 5th St., NW, Washington, DC*

Climate change poses considerable challenges to forests and those who own them. Extension agents, state foresters and private consultants who engage private forestland owners on issues such as climate change and related long-term management of their forest resources can draw on the extensive body of work in the social sciences to better understand behavior, motivation, and communication challenges. The National Research Council with funding from the US Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, is hosting a workshop that will bring together private forestland owners, forest service providers and experts in communication, adult learning, risk management, and other relevant fields to:

- Learn about threats to forests posed by climate change and human actions,
- Analyze and understand private forestland owners' (to include individual, family, and community forest owners) objectives, values, knowledge, and dispositions about forest management, climate change and related threats, and
- Discuss strategies for improving communication between forestland owners and service providers around forest management in the face of climate change.

[More information about this project](#)

[RSVP Today](#)

### **2014 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy. The Academy is an intensive one-week, all-expense-paid professional development program designed to help teachers develop innovative math and science teaching skills. Third- through fifth-grade teachers located in the U.S. are encouraged to apply. [Applications](#) for the 2014 Academy are **due October 31, 2013**. For more information about the program, click [here](#).

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## CONFERENCES

### **Keep America Beautiful Conference Call for Presentations**

#### **Submission Deadline: August 15, 2013**

Conference: February 3-6, 2014 ~ Charlotte, North Carolina

Keep America Beautiful is seeking dynamic presentations that inform community leaders about proven practices, innovative programs, and motivate the pursuit of excellence. Approximately 400 attendees will participate in general and concurrent sessions. Attendees include KAB affiliate directors and board members, government, business, civic, community and youth leaders working toward the KAB mission to “engage individuals to take greater responsibility in improving their community environments.” [Click here](#).

### **Come to Baltimore and Celebrate the Power of Environmental Education!**

Join more than 1,000 of your colleagues from around the world at one of the largest and longest-running annual meetings expressly dedicated to increasing the reach and effectiveness of environmental education. The 2013 NAAEE conference has something for everyone: the 10th annual research symposium, hands-on workshops, and a wide variety of sessions that address early childhood education, innovation and leadership, conservation and education, citizen science, sustainable communities, environmental issues, green schools, and more. We have a dynamic line-up of keynote speakers, and Baltimore is a fabulous host city with wonderful opportunities for field trips, restaurants, and local points of interest. **Early Bird deadline is August 30, 2013**. Register at [www.naaee.net/conference/registration](http://www.naaee.net/conference/registration).

## **RESOURCES**

### **Earth Science Week 2013 Toolkits**

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) Earth Science Week 2013 Toolkit contains educational materials for all ages that correspond to this year's event theme, "Mapping Our World." Materials include the program poster and school-year activity calendar and materials from program partners. Earth Science Week is an annual event led by AGI engaging community groups, educators, and interested citizens in organizing celebratory events across the country to service and educate the public. **Earth Science Week 2013 will be celebrated October 13-19.** <http://www.earthsciweek.org/materials/index.html>

### **Community EE Website**

Community EE is an evolving practice that considers the value of intentional, authentic relationships with communities and environmental outcomes that consider community health and neighborhood wellness. This site was set up to collect thoughts and feedback on Community EE to ensure the practice is inclusive and reflective of a broad range of perspectives. Constructive feedback is welcome. [www.communityee.net](http://www.communityee.net)

### **Mayah's Lot: Environmental Justice in Action Blog**

The new comic book, Mayah's Lot, depicts how one young individual makes an impact by prompting her community to fight to keep a hazardous waste facility from operating in her neighborhood. While fighting to protect the public health of her urban community, Mayah teaches young students that living in the city doesn't mean you can't be an environmental hero. [Click here.](#)

### **Primate Education Network**

The Primate Education Network (PEN) is a global network dedicated to connecting and empowering primate conservation educators. <http://www.primateeducationnetwork.org>

### **Navigate America's Major Rivers Without Getting Wet**

Have you ever dropped a stick into a river and wondered where it might go if it floated all the way downstream? Now you can trace its journey using Streamer – a new online service from the National Atlas of the United States. Streamer is an online map service that lets anyone trace downstream along America's major rivers and streams simply by picking a point on a stream. Streamer will map the route the stream follows. You can also trace upstream using Streamer.

**More:** <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3633>

**Streamer:** <http://nationalatlas.gov/streamer/Streamer/welcome.html>

### **BirdSleuth Project**

With lesson plans, videos, images, facts about birds, and opportunities to participate in citizen science projects, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [BirdSleuth website](#) can hook students of all ages on science through the study of birds. In Get a Bird's-Eye View of Nesting Birds, elementary and middle school students watch footage from live bird cams and learn about nesting behaviors and habitats through accompanying lessons. In Evolution in Paradise, high school students explore evolution concepts through lessons and videos inspired by birds of paradise.

### **Climate Science Activity Book**

[Discover Your Changing World With NOAA: Ten Activities to Introduce You to the Essential Principles of Climate Science](#) introduces middle and high school students to the principles of climate science and the factors involved in climate change. Students explore climate science concepts as they make a solar cooker, set up a home weather station, construct an electronic temperature sensor, create a unique message about climate change, and play the Are You Climate Literate? board game. Each activity includes detailed instructions and illustrations.

## EVENTS

### **Apple Recycling Program for Schools—Deadline: August 30, 2013**

Now through August 30, 2013, Apple will recycle your school's old, unwanted Mac computers, PCs, and qualifying peripherals from any manufacturer — for free. There's no purchase required, and all registered, accredited K-12 and higher education institutions with at least 25 recyclable items are eligible to participate. Register your school: <http://www.apple.com/education/recycling>

### **Share the Experience 2013 Photo Contest**

Sponsored by the National Park Foundation, the Active Network, and Air Wick, in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U. S. Forest Service, the "Share the Experience" Photo Contest will harness the power of pictures to help connect people with their Federal Recreation Lands. They are seeking amazing photos from amateur photographers that highlight the best of America's federal lands, national parks and historical sites in these categories: Adventure & Outdoor Recreation, Historical & Cultural, Scenic, Seasons & Landscapes, Let's Move Outside!, and Wildlife. Please see the attached information on photo contest guidelines and prizes.

For more information: <http://www.sharetheexperience.org/>

To enter: <http://www.sharetheexperience.org/enter>

### **World Water Monitoring Challenge™ Take the Challenge! Register Today**

World Water Monitoring Challenge™ is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. Thousands of people around the world focus on water quality each year by testing, sharing, and protecting their local waterways. Learn how you or your organization can join this global effort at: [www.MonitorWater.org](http://www.MonitorWater.org)

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## LAGNIAPPE

### **"Alive: In America's Delta," the Whooping Crane's Majestic Return—August 19, 7:00 PM**

Trace the landmark effort to reintroduce the whooping crane into Louisiana's wetlands. Just over half a century ago, these majestic birds were on the brink of extinction, but painstaking worldwide efforts to save them have landed them back in these coastal wetlands. Experience Part 1 of LPB's thrilling new wildlife series: "Alive! In America's Delta." The program will broadcast on the following stations: Baton Rouge WLPB Channel 27, Monroe KLTM Channel 13, Lake Charles KLTL Channel 18, Lafayette KLPB Channel 24, Shreveport KLTS Channel 24, Alexandria KLPA Channel 25 and New Orleans WLAE Channel 32 on Friday, August 23 at 8:00 PM

### **LUMCON: 2013 Hypoxia Update for Gulf of Mexico**

The 2013 area of low oxygen, commonly known as the 'Dead Zone,' measured 15,120 square kilometers (= 5,800 square miles) in this summer's mapping expedition. Based on the May nitrogen load from the Mississippi River, the area was predicted to be 18,900 to 22,200 square kilometers (7,300 to 8,600 square miles), depending on the model. While not one of the larger areas mapped since systematic surveys started in 1985 by LUMCON and LSU researchers, the size of this year's zone of oxygen-depleted bottom-water is above the long-term average and above the average size of the last five years. [Click here](#) to view entire Press Release.

*Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, & related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>*

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